

SAFETY MESSAGE

Your Personal Safety is our #1 Priority

Safety Attitude

Things Affecting Attitude

Feelings and emotions

Safety is attitude and can be affected by many things which influence a person's behavior.

One of the distinctions we have as human beings is the fact that we have feelings and emotions. Many times throughout life emotions are heavier than reason in a decision-making situation.

Emotions affect our job performance in terms of quality and quantity, as well as our attitude toward co-workers, supervisors, and the company in general.

There could be a family problem or sickness that has us worried and doesn't let us concentrate on the job. Maybe a household economy isn't okay, or you have a test at college this week, or you broke up with your friend.

Who knows, maybe it's just "one of those days" we all have once in a while when we feel we "should not have gotten out of bed".

Being in control

It is normal for emotions to affect our usual behavior, but we have to avoid letting emotions "take over". We must always try to be in control of the situation.

Symptoms of emotional influence

Since we all know that being in control is not always possible, it is important to know some general symptoms of emotion-caused accidents.

Repeated error in performance by a skilled employee often indicates emotional problems, which are taking the individual's attention away from the job being performed, and from that individual's safety performance.

There may be other factors besides emotional problems, but you as the foreman or supervisor must determine if in fact, it is an emotional factor, or just some other problem, such as poor materials, machine adjustment, or the like.

Indicators

When a worker's safety behavior is affected by emotions, you will have a worker who will display any or all of the following symptoms:

- Resents and rebels against authority
- Can't or won't concentrate
- Doesn't understand the significance of orders, directions, or instructions
- Always talks instead of listening
- Won't face up to problems or take responsibility for his or her own actions
- Can't accept the role of the job
- Doesn't respond to training
- Is sulky, surly, or has a self-pity attitude

- Is temperamental (mad at the world one day and apathetic on another)
- Violates safety rules.
- Can't or won't make decisions.
- Is, or becomes, a loner.
- May develop attendance problems, especially for minor illnesses or other excuses.
- Can't plan work, shifts from one job to another without apparent reasons.

Injury statistics

Eighty percent of accidents happen due to unsafe acts. The question posed is; "does a poor safety attitude contribute towards unsafe acts?"

Types of injuries

"Where it hurts:"

- Head 12%
- Body 26%
- Legs 13%
- Arms 9%
- Hands 24%
- Feet 10%
- All others 6%

The big causes of injury

The big causes of injuries are:

- Handling objects 23%
- Falls 20%
- Hit by 14%
- Machinery 10%
- Vehicles 7%
- Hit against 7%
- Not wearing PPE 5%
- All others 14%

Why accidents happen

Look at this list. Are any of these due to attitude? Or, is attitude a contributing factor?

- Lifting too big a load
- Not keeping your back straight while lifting
- Not wearing protection (gloves, etc.)
- Things left on the floor or stairs
- Not paying attention
- Wrong action on ladder
- Not wearing head protection
- Leaving objects overhead
- Walking under loads
- Removing guards
- Unauthorized use
- Capacity being overloaded
- Not driving defensively
- Speed
- Not watching your step
- Cutting corners